

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising transmitting a signal from at least one sensor located below the tool and adjacent to the downhole device.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein ~~one or more of the at least one sensors~~ sensor measures temperature.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein ~~one or more of the at least one sensors~~ sensor measures pressure.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the downhole device is a drill bit and one or more of the at least one sensors measures chemical characteristics of a fluid around the drill bit.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a thruster and actuating the thruster is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a drilling hammer and actuating the drilling hammer is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a stabilizer and actuating the stabilizer is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

Page 2

342803_1.DOC

PATENT

Att. Dkt. No. WEAT/0173.C1

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a rotatable steering apparatus and actuating the rotatable steering apparatus is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a vibrator and actuating the vibrator is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

31 - 45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating with a downhole device comprising:

positioning a tubular string in a wellbore, the tubular string including:

a signal transducing downhole device; and

an axially extendable signal conducting tool, having a flow path therethrough, located between the downhole device and an upper end of the tubular string; and

sending a signal between the downhole device and a location above the signal conducting tool, the signal traversing a path through the signal conducting tool, wherein the signal path is physically separated from the fluid flow path.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the signal path includes a wall of the signal conducting tool.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the downhole device is a drill bit.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the downhole device is a vibrator and actuating the vibrator is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT0173.C1

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the downhole device is a rotatable steering apparatus and actuating the rotatable steering apparatus is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.